Discussion questions on *Surprised by Joy*, *The Solitary Reaper.*

Answer these questions in pairs. You will then move into larger groups to continue discussion.

*Surprised by Joy*

1. What shift in feeling occurs in the first stanza? How does the poetry achieve this?
2. Identify the feeling evoked in the next 5 lines
3. What does Wordsworth mean by ‘pang’ and what were the two ‘worst pangs’ the speaker ever felt?
4. What does the speaker mean by ‘heart’s best treasure’?
5. Can you list any similarities between *Surprised by Joy* and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*?

*The Solitary Reaper*

1. List the words or phrases that you don’t understand. Leave room for explanations in your notes
2. Describe the tone and feeling conveyed in the first stanza. What qualities strike the speaker about this girl?
3. How does the girl’s singing affect the speaker’s imagination? What does he describe in the second and third stanzas?
4. List the similarities between this poem and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*